OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E. Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 207

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of type species in harmony with accustomed use for the genera *Echinocyamus* van Phelsum, 1774, and *Fibularia* Lamarck, 1816 (Class Echinoidea)



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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OPINION 207

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USE FOR THE GENERA "ECHINOCYAMUS" VAN PHELSUM, 1774, AND "FIBULARIA" LAMARCK, 1816 (CLASS ECHINOIDEA)

RULING:—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, (a) the generic names Echinocyamus van Phelsum, 1774, and Fibularia Lamarck, 1816 (Class Echinoidea) are hereby validated, (b) all type selections for the foregoing nominal genera made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and (c) Spatagus pusillus Müller (O.F.), 1776, is hereby designated as the type species of Echinocyamus van Phelsum, 1774, and Fibularia ovulum Lamarck, 1816, as the type species of Fibularia Lamarck, 1816. (2) The generic names Echinocyamus van Phelsum, 1774 (gender of name: masculine), and Fibularia Lamarck, 1816 (gender of name: feminine), as validated under (1)(a) above and with the type species designated in (1)(c) above, are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology as Names Nos. 634 and 635. (3) The specific names pusillus Müller (O.F.), 1776, as published in the combination Spatagus pusillus, and ovulum Lamarck, 1816, as published in the combination Fibularia ovulum, are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology as Names Nos. 10 and 11.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The present is the fourth of the eight cases relating to disputed Echinoderm names submitted to the International Commission

on Zoological Nomenclature by the late Dr. Th. Mortensen (Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen) under cover of a letter dated 17th November 1932. The arguments in regard to these cases were set out in a paper by Dr. Mortensen entitled "A Vote on some Echinoderm Names", which had been published a month earlier (Mortensen, October 1932, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. (10) 10: 345—368). This application was concerned with the names Echinocyamus van Phelsum, 1774, and Fibularia Lamarck, 1816 (Class Echinoidea). Dr. Mortensen explained that up to 1891 there had been complete agreement as to the application of the names of these allied Clypestroid genera, the name Echinocyamus van Phelsum having been applied to species of the low type with internal radiating walls, and, since the publication in 1846 of Agassiz and Desor's Catalogue raisonné des Echinides, Fibularia Lamarck to species of the high type without internal radiating walls. In 1891, however, Lambert (Bull. Soc. géol. France (3) 19:749) put forward the view that the figures published by van Phelsum represented species of the high type; he accordingly transferred the name Echinocyamus van Phelsum to the genus till then known as Fibularia Lamarck. Lambert's action had given rise—as Dr. Mortensen showed—to severe criticism from other leading specialists. It was evident, however, that order could not be restored in the nomenclature of this group until an authoritative ruling had been obtained from the International Commission. It was with the object of securing such a ruling that the present application was submitted to the Commission. The proposal so submitted was that the Commission should rule in favour of the acceptance of Echinocyamus van Phelsum, 1774, with Spatagus pusillus Müller (O.F.), 1776, as type species, and of Fibularia Lamarck, 1816, with Echinocyamus craniolaris Leske, 1778, as type species, thereby, it was hoped, standardising the first of these two names as the generic name for the species of the low type with internal radiating walls, and the second of these names as the generic name for species of the high type without such internal walls.

2. As has been explained in *Opinion* 206 (paragraphs 1 and 2) relating to the name *Diadema* Gray, 1825 (a case which was submitted jointly with the present case) an extensive canvas of the views of active workers in the Echinoderms had been undertaken by Dr. Mortensen before the present case was submitted

to the International Commission. Of the thirty-nine (39) specialists who had taken part in this consultation Lambert alone was opposed to the action recommended to the Commission, which had the unanimous support of the whole of the remaining thirty-eight (38) specialists concerned. The names and addresses of the specialists taking part in this consultation have already been given in *Opinion* 206 (*Diadema*).

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. In December 1932 the then Secretary (the late Dr. C. W. Stiles) reported Dr. Mortensen's application to the Commission in Circular Letter 220. On 20th December of that year, he wrote also to the Director of the United States Geological Survey, expressing the hope that arrangements might be made for these proposals to be examined by the palaeontologists of the Survey. On 19th January 1933, the Director replied, forwarding five comments by members of the staff, of which one was signed by two workers. These comments, in so far as they relate to the present case, were as follows:—

(a) Comment by L. W. Stephenson and C. Wythe Cooke:

I am in favor of codifying names concerning the strict validity of which there may be some question, if they have been in generally accepted use for long periods, but when it can be shown clearly that some other name has priority over a later more generally used name... is there not a danger of adding to, rather than subtracting from, the confusion? Will not some authors accept the rulings of the International Commission, while others will continue stoutly to maintain the validity of the names having priority? Furthermore, will not such rulings encourage a flood of demands for suspension of the Rules?

(b) Comment by Lloyd G. Henbest:

Dr. Mortensen's petition to conserve and restore certain Echinoderm names seems to be reasonable, except in the case of (Here are mentioned certain names with which this *Opinion* is not concerned.)

(c) Comment (dated 6th January 1933) by John B. Reeside, Jr.: I see no particular objection to placing all of the names on the List of established names.

(d) Comment by Edwin Kirke:

I concur, except in the case of Diadema (See Opinion 206).

(e) Comment (dated 16th January 1933) by W. P. Woodring:

I am not familiar with the usage of these Echinoderm names, but as a general principle—other things being equal—I am in favor of special protection for names of long-standing usage that are being threatened.

- 4. In December 1933 Dr. Stiles reported to the Commission (in Circular Letter 245) the comments received earlier that year from the palaeontologists of the Geological Survey. In March 1935 Dr. Stiles reported to the Commission (in Circular Letter 291) that he had received no further comments on this or the other proposals submitted by Dr. Mortensen and his colleagues, and suggested that these proposals should be considered by the Commission when it met at Lisbon in September of that year.
- 5. When the International Commission assembled at Lisbon in 1935, it found itself severely handicapped in dealing with these proposals through the absence of the Secretary through ill-health and the fact that the documents relating to these cases were not available. At a short discussion of the present case at the Fourth Meeting of the Commission at its Lisbon Session held in the Library of the Faculty of Sciences on Tuesday, 17th September 1935, it was decided that, in the absence of the necessary documentation, the only practicable course was to postpone the present application for further consideration (Lisbon Session, 4th Meeting, Conclusion 3) (1943, Bull. zool. Nomencl. 1:33).
- 6. No further action had been taken in regard to this case at the time when, following the election of Mr. Francis Hemming to be Secretary to the International Commission in succession to Dr. Stiles, the papers relating to this and other current cases were transferred to his care in 1938. On the re-organisation of the Secretariat, the applications submitted by Dr. Mortensen in 1932, other than that relating to the name *Diadema* Gray, 1825, were grouped together under the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)18. Later, however, it was judged more convenient to register each of these cases separately, the Number Z.N.(S.)318 being then allotted to the present case. It had not been found possible to

advance the consideration of this case when in September 1939 the outbreak of war in Europe led to the evacuation of the records of the Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942 and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. Unfortunately, however, it was not then possible to send the present case to the printer, for the paper of 1932, in which it had originally been submitted, did not deal with the matter in sufficient detail, and the circumstances of the war at that time made it impossible to communicate with Dr. Mortensen in Denmark.

7. In the summer of 1946 the conclusion of hostilities in Europe restored opportunities for foreign travel, and Dr. Mortensen paid a visit to London, largely for the purpose of discussing with Mr. Hemming the arrangements to be made for the further consideration of this, and of his other, applications by the International Commission. It was then agreed that, as a first step, Dr. Mortensen should prepare, and should furnish to Mr. Hemming as quickly as possible, separate applications of a somewhat fuller kind in regard to each of the outstanding cases which in 1932 he had submitted collectively in his paper "A Vote on Echinoderm Names" (see paragraph 1). As regards the present case, Dr. Mortensen intimated that he no longer proposed to ask the Commission to designate Echinocyamus craniolaris Leske, 1778, to be the type species of Fibularia Lamarck, 1816, for it had now transpired that, contrary to the belief previously held, the foregoing nominal species represented a species of the low type with internal radiating walls, that is, a species of the genus known as Echinocyamus van Phelsum, 1774; its designation as the type species of Fibularia Lamarck would thus destroy an important part of the purpose of his application by making Fibularia a subjective junior synonym of Echinocyamus. proposed in his revised application to recommend the substitution, for Echinocyamus craniolaris Leske, of Fibularia ovulum Lamarck, 1816, a nominal species which undoubtedly represented a species of the high type without internal radiating walls, as the type

species of *Fibularia* Lamarck. At the same time, Mr. Hemming expressed the view that, when considering this case, the Commission would need to examine the question whether van Phelsum could properly be regarded as having applied the principles of binominal nomenclature in his *Brief* of 1774, if, as he hoped, the Paris Congress were to make this a necessary condition for the availability of a name by substituting the word "binominal" for the extremely unsatisfactory word "binary" in Proviso (a) to Article 25. If that Article were to be changed in this way, it would not prejudice the chances of the Commission approving Dr. Mortensen's application, but it would make it necessary for it to use its Plenary Powers to validate the name *Echinocyamus* van Phelsum as well as for the purpose of designating the desired type species for the genus so named.

8. Dr. Mortensen's revised application in the present case was received on 14th June 1947. It was as follows:—

On the status of the names "Echinocyamus" v. Phelsum and "Fibularia" Lamarck (Class Echinoidea, Order Clypeastroida)

In December 1932, I submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature a request that under their Plenary Powers they should validate certain generic names in the Phylum Echinoderma which under the Règles Internationales were either invalid, or had, as their type species, other species than those universally attributed them. In each case, I was of opinion that greater confusion than uniformity would clearly result from the strict application of the Règles. In this view I was supported by a large number of the leading specialists in this group. Full particulars of these cases were given in a paper entitled "A Vote on some Echinoderm Names" published in October 1932 (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (10) 10: 345—368). Owing to the ill-health of the then Secretary of the International Commission, and for other reasons, no progress was made with any of these applications except that of Luidia Forbes, which has been settled by the Commission in Opinion 129. The need for decisions on these cases has increased in urgency in the interval elapsed since 1932 and I now ask the Commission to take each of these cases into immediate consideration.

Discussion of the case Echinocyamus—Fibularia.

The name *Echinocyamus* was given by Murk v. Phelsum, 1774, in his "Brief aan Cornelius Nozeman over de Gewelv-Slekken of Zee-Egelen" p. 131. He describes and figures no less than fourteen

species, giving them only Dutch names "Kriekpit", "Kersepit", etc. The figures are exceedingly poor and not clearly referable to any species. Of the five figures given of each "species", the two first appear to represent a flat form, the three last a high, globose form, evidence of the inability of the artist to draw recognisably these small forms enlarged. V. Phelsum states that his specimens came from the Adriatic (and America), where only the flat form, Echinocyamus pusillus, lives—and is very commonly found on the beaches. The only thing that can be said with certainty about v. Phelsum's Echinocyamus species is that the common Echinocyamus pusillus (O. Fr. Müller) must be among them, and, moreover, since all agree that all v. Phelsum's 14 species are in fact one and the same species, they all represent Echinocyamus pusillus. Leske in his Additamenta ad I. Th. Kleinii Naturalis Dispositio Echinodermatum 1778, gave Latin names to all v. Phelsum's species. Accordingly all these species names of Leske become simply synonyms of Echinocyamus pusillus (O. Fr. Müller), also those two of Leske's names which have been used to some degree, angulosus and craniolaris.

Lamarck, in his Histoire Naturelle des Animaux sans vertèbres 1816, 3. p. 17, does not use the name Echinocyamus, but creates a new genus Fibularia under which he has three species: trigona, ovulum and tarentina. The first of these has never been figured, and is not recognisable from the diagnosis. The second species, ovulum, is sufficiently characterised by the words "globoso-ovata, basi subangustata". This species accordingly is the type of the genus Fibularia, as almost unanimously acknowledged.* The third species, tarentina is Echinocyamus pusillus.

The first to recognise that the low, flat form and the high, globose form represent two distinct generic types, *Echinocyamus* and *Fibularia*, is L'Agassiz in his Monographie des Scutelles, 1841, and since then the name *Echinocyamus* has unanimously been accepted as the name of the low, flat forms, like the type *Echinocyamus pusillus*, and *Fibularia* has likewise been unanimously accepted as the name of the high, globose forms, like the type *Fibularia ovulum*.

In 1891, however, Lambert, in his "Note sur le genre Echinocyamus" (Bull. Soc. géol. France (3) 29. p. 794) maintains that the figures illustrating v. Phelsum's book prove that his Echinocyamus was the

^{*} H. L. Clark, in his "Hawaiian and other Pacific Echini. Clypeastridae, . . . Laganidae, Fibulariidae, and Scutellidae". Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool. 46. 1914, p. 57, declares the species trigona Lamarck=Echinocyamus craniolaris Leske, the genotype of Fibularia, forgetting that there is no certainty at all what trigona Lamarck really is, and that if it be =craniolaris Leske, that means that it is =the flat Echinocyamus pusillus, which Clark would never think of referring to the genus Fibularia. But this mistake of Clark has had the unfortunate consequence that all authors after 1914 have uncritically accepted Clark's statement and changed the name ovulum Lamarck into craniolaris Leske. In the forthcoming Vol. IV Part 2 of my Monograph of the Echinoidea the matter will be set right and the name ovulum Lamarck reinstalled.

high, globose form, and accordingly he interchanges the names *Echinocyamus* and *Fibularia*, using *Echinocyamus* for the high, globose forms, *Fibularia* for the low, flat forms, contrary to the hitherto unanimous use of the two names. The change thus introduced was met with protest by the foremost authorities on fossil Echinoids, Cottreau and de Loriol, as well as by the present author, but Lambert emphatically maintained his view; against the objection that van Phelsum states his specimens came from the Adriatic, where only the flat form occurs, he boldly says that v. Phelsum was in error, adding "on sait d'ailleurs avec quelle facilité peuvent s'égarer des étiquettes volantes"!

Up till 1914, Lambert was alone in using the two names in this sense, contrary to the otherwise unanimous use of both zoologists and palaeontologists of *Echinocyamus* for the flat forms, *Fibularia* for the high, globose forms. But in 1914 the interchange of the two names was carried through in Lambert & Thiéry's "Essai de nomenclature raisonnée des Echinides", and since then several palaeontologists have uncritically followed Lambert & Thiéry in using the two names in the inverted sense, though others have protested; even Thiéry himself returned to the old use. The result of all this is the most deplorable confusion. Impossible now to tell what these names mean—and very many fossil species of these forms have been described since 1914. It must be left to future palaeontologists to clear up the mess caused by Lambert. Fortunately no student of the recent forms has condescended to adopt the views of Lambert; but great harm has been done to Palaeontology, a great number of these small forms being known from all the Tertiary formations.

In order to avoid the confusion continuing in the future, I ask the Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, acting under the Plenary Powers conferred upon them by the International Congress of Zoology, to validate the two said names in the, apart from Lambert and his followers, unanimous sense, namely

Echinocyamus van Phelsum—genotype (Spatagus) pusillus. O. Fr. Müller, 1776. Zoologia Danicae Prodromus. p. 236.

Fibularia Lamarck—genotype Fibularia ovulum. Lamarck, 1816. Histoire des Animaux sans vertèbres. 3. p. 1.

The two names will be used in this sense in the forthcoming Vol. 4. Part II of my Monograph of the Echinoidea.

In my "Vote on some Echinoderm names" quoted above this proposal was supported by: Bather, Brighton, A. H. Clark, Cottreau, Currie, Deichmann, Diakonow, Döderlein, Ekman, Faas, Fedotov, Fisher, Gislén, Goto, Gregory, Grieg, Hawkins, Hecker, Heding, Hérouard, v. Hofsten, Jackson, Klinghardt, Lieberkind, Mortensen, Nobre, Ohshima, Panning, Ravn, Reichensperger, Schmidt, Spencer, Stenfanini, Valette, Vaney, Wanner and Yakowlew—viz. nearly all the living specialists in Echinoderms, apart, of course, from Lambert.

9. On 14th November 1947 a notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objections to the action proposed in this case.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

10. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission (1) summarising the points made in the discussion at the foregoing meeting and (2) setting out the decision then reached by the Commission in regard to this case (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 34) (1950, Bull. zool. Nomencl. 4: 516—519):—

IN DISCUSSION the view was expressed that this was a case where confusion had arisen (or was calculated to arise) in the main not through the strict application of the *Règles* but through doubt as to how the *Règles* should be applied as the result of differences of opinion on the taxonomic question of the identity of the species included by van Phelsum in his genus *Echinocyamus*. In addition, however, there were strictly nomenclatorial issues involved, such as the doubt as to whether van Phelsum could properly be regarded as a binominal author (and therefore whether, without the use of the Plenary Powers, the name *Echinocyamus* had any standing as from van Phelsum, 1774) and the situation created by the selection by H. L. Clark (1914), as the

type species of Fibularia Lamarck, of the species Fibularia trigona Lamarck, a species regarded by the present applicants as being unrecognisable. There was general agreement, however, that the Plenary Powers should be used in this case, in order to prevent the confusion which would otherwise inevitably follow the transfer of the name Echinocyamus to the genus now known as Fibularia, and of the name Fibularia to the genus now known as Echinocyamus.

THE COMMISSION agreed:—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers to set aside all selections of type species for the undermentioned genera and to validate the generic names in question, with the species specified below as respective type species:—

Generic Name
Validated
(1)
Echinocyamus van
Phelsum, 1774
Fibularia Lamarck, 1816

Species designated as
the type species of
the genus specified
in Col. (1)
(2)
Spatagus pusillus Müller,
(O.F.), 1776
Fibularia ovulum
Lamarck, 1816

- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic names Echinocyamus van Phelsum, 1774 and Fibularia Lamarck, 1816, with the type species severally specified in (1) above;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology:—

 pusillus Müller (O.F.), 1776 (as published in the binominal combination Spatagus pusillus);
 - ovulum Lamarck, 1816 (as published in the binominal combination Fibularia ovulum);
- (4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

11. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph:—

Echinocyamus van Phelsum, 1774, Brief Gewelv-Slekken Zee-Egelen: 131

Fibularia Lamarck, 1816, Hist. nat. Anim. s. Vertèbr. 3:16 ovulum, Fibularia, Lamarck, 1816, Hist. nat. Anim. s. Vertèbr. 3:17

pusillus, Spatagus, Müller (O.F.), 1776, Zool. dan. Prodr.: 236

- 12. The genders of the generic names *Echinocyamus* van Phelsum, 1774, and *Fibularia* Lamarck, 1816, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 10 above, are masculine and feminine respectively.
- 13. The decision taken in this case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on 26th July, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5: 116).
- 14. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely:—

Beltrán vice Cabrera; Boschma; Bradley; di Caporiacco; Hemming; Hindle vice Jordan; Jorge vice do Amaral; Kirby vice Stoll; Lemche vice Dymond; Mansour vice Hankó; Metcalf vice Peters; Riley vice Calman; Rode; Spärck vice Mortensen; van Straelen vice Richter; Usinger vice Vokes.

- 15. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.
- 16. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also

in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.*: 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

- 17. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.
- 18. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Seven (207) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Twenty-First day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

FRANCIS HEMMING